GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2009
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR
Ganeshamurthi Shri A.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to boost research and development in the pharmaceutical sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Foreign Direct Investment in pharmaceutical sector is permitted / co ntemplated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.19 for 19.11.2009

(a) & (b).Yes. Govt. proposes to boost research and development (R&D) in Pharmaceuticals. Following the creation of the new Deptt in July 2008 various proposals have been formulated and forwarded to the Planning Commission for their examination and `in principle` approval. These programmes are at different stages of approval and implementation. The Department is working in consultation with various Govt. Departments and organizations including the Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health & Family welfare for building up basic support systems to create the enabling environment for R&D initiatives by creating the required infrastructure as well as mechanisms and linkages to facilitate R&D. Six new National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPERs) are being set up to create the appropriate development of human resources for Pharma R&D.

Different Pharmaceutical companies are involved in drug discovery and formulation research alongwith Government Departments/Institutions like Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, ICMR, AYUSH etc. Drug discovery and development is a continuous and , long drawn process involving 10-12 years of time aiming at manufacturing safe, potent and affordable drugs.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has geared up for Research & Development of new drugs. There are about 58 companies in the pharmaceutical sector having R&D centres approved by DSIR u/s. 35 (2AB) of the Income Tax Act. out of which about 15 companies are carrying out Research & Development in new drugs and have built up requisite R&D infrastructure and expertise. The therapeutic areas in wliich these companies have developed lead molecules are malaria, urology, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular indications, cancer, diabetes, dyslipidemia, obesity, inflammation & pain, staphylococcal infections, respiratory infections, skin infections, anti-migraine, anti-TB and anti-psoriasis.

(c) & (d) Yes. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is permitted under the FDI policy on the automatic route for manufacture of drugs & Pharmaceuticals including those involving use of recombinant DNA technology.

(e) The Department is exploring various avenues to facilitate research and build up basic support systems for promoting R&D.